

## Arab allies seek to revive pact

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian official left on Sunday for talks with seven Arab allies against Iraq to try to resurrect a plan for an Arab peacekeeping force in the Gulf. Assistant Foreign Minister Mahmoud Abu Nasr headed for Qatar to meet senior officials from Syria and the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). "The aim is to discuss ways to implement the Damascus declaration and set up protocols to carry it out in the economic, political, security and information fields," Mr. Abu Nasr told reporters. Egypt, Syria and the GCC members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — agreed in March after the Gulf war to form a peacekeeping force. Under the agreement signed in Damascus, troops from Egypt and Syria, which played major roles in the Gulf war, would form the nucleus of such a force. In return the oil-rich Gulf states would give them substantial economic aid. But cracks later appeared between the allies. President Hosni Mubarak said last month he had ordered the withdrawal of at least 35,000 Egyptians who took part in the war.

Volume 16 Number 4728

AMMAN MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1991, THU AL HIGEH 5, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## King receives congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables from world leaders, statesmen and senior Jordanian officials on his recovery from a heart ailment. The King received cables from President Richard von Weizsaecker of Germany, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. A cable also came from Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mihlan, on behalf of himself and all judges and courts personnel in Jordan, wishing the King continued good health and happiness to continue leading the nation towards further progress and success.

## Assad gets Gorbachev message

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the Middle East peace process in which Washington and Moscow are key players. Officials in Damascus said the message was conveyed to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara during a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Alexander Zotov Saturday night. Its contents were not disclosed.

## Iraq denounces Britain, U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi newspaper Sunday condemned British Prime Minister John Major and U.S. leaders for their opposition to lifting economic sanctions. The Iraqi News Agency quoted the daily Al Thawra as saying a proposed war reparations fund that is being debated at the United Nations is illegal under the U.N. Charter. The fund would be financed by withholding a portion of Iraq's oil revenues "at a time when the coalition continues to tighten the noose of economic blockade," the paper was quoted as saying. The editorial in Al Thawra singled out Mr. Major as a "serpent" who is attempting to increase his popularity at home by taking anti-Iraqi positions. The newspaper said the continuation of sanctions was a violation of Iraqi people's right and it held the world community responsible for their suffering.

## Kabul reports talks with exiles

KABUL (R) — President Najibullah's government has held talks with prominent Afghan exiles in Europe in a bid to find peace in Afghanistan, a presidential aide said on Sunday. Ehsan Tooki said in an interview with selected Western media that the exiles had included a former prime minister and several ministers from previous governments. The Kabul government was at times represented at ministerial level during the meetings, the aide said. He declined to name ministers who had attended them. There has been speculation in Kabul that Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil met former Prime Minister Mohammad Yusaf during a recent European visit. Diplomatic sources reported contact in Geneva in April between representatives of the warring sides.

## Israeli who sold arms to drug lords jailed

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — An Israeli businessman was sentenced to nearly five years in prison for conspiring to sell munitions to a Colombian cocaine cartel and train members of the cartel to use explosives. David Candotti, 30, was sentenced to a term of four years and nine months Friday by U.S. District Court Judge William Zloch. He faced a maximum 15-year term. "What we are talking about is providing an arsenal to the highest level of the Cali cartel, to their inner cycle," Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Ward said. Candotti, who had been living in Miami Beach, has been in prison since his arrest in 1989 with a van full of munitions at a service plaza on a Florida highway. The indictment said Candotti organised two shipments of munitions to Cali, Colombia, in July and August 1988.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة تليز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية

## Jordan seeks world intervention to block executions in Kuwait

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday appealed to Arab and international organisations and world governments for immediate intervention to save the lives of Jordanians sentenced to death in Kuwait for allegedly collaborating with the Iraqi army during its occupation of the emirate.

In messages sent to various organisations and governments as well as the United Nations, the Jordanian government said the death sentences, passed by a military court conducting summary trials of alleged collaborators with the Iraqis during the occupation, "do not conform with the charged filed against them."

The messages said that the accused did not have the proper means to defend themselves against the charges filed against them.

The government called for urgent intervention to protect the lives of those Jordanians facing execution and for an end to the summary trials as well as for fair and just conduct of the cases after

Up to 450 people are expected to be brought to trial in a special

ensuring that the legal rights of the accused are respected in line with international norms and practices.

The appeals were sent, among others, to the Arab League, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Vatican and the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

The Jordanian appeal came as reports from Kuwait said three more people were sentenced to 10-year prison terms and eight labourers were acquitted.

Death sentences had been expected against the Lebanese editor, Ahmad Fadi Al Husseini, who fled the country before the liberation, and against 35-year-old Ibtisam Al Dukhail, a Kuwaiti who worked to recruit journalists for the paper.

But defence lawyers have expressed shock at the number of death sentences emerging from the court.

"We are dealing with these people the same methods that (Iraq) used to deal with us," said prominent defence attorney Imad Al Seif.

(Continued on page 5)

## Kurds expect to sign peace pact within a week

BAGHDAD (R) — Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani left Baghdad for Iraqi Kurdistan Sunday to put the finishing touches to a peace agreement with the government, a Kurdish spokesman said.

Asked about the fate of Kirkuk, he replied: "About details I have no comment now. May be there are some surprises in the whole matter."

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday, Iraqi Kurdish Islamic groups opposed to any peace deal with the government plan to form a united front to continue their struggle.

It quoted Badr Esmail, a member of the Kurdish Hizbollah of Iraq, as saying that founder members of the Kurdish Islamic Movement, the Kurdish Hizbollah, the Kurdish Mujahideen, the Kurdish Ansar Al Islam and others had been invited to join.

Mr. Barzani left to Kurdistan today. He will speak with the other Kurdish leadership and then he will be back in a few days. "He will take about a week to come back to Baghdad and announce the agreement with the Iraqi government."

Mr. Barzani, whose Kurdish Democratic Party is the biggest Kurdish guerrilla group, arrived in Baghdad at the beginning of May to lead a second round of talks on a new autonomy deal for Iraq's 9.5 million Kurds.

Mr. Shawis, speaking in Arabic and English, said Jalal Talabani, leader of the other main Kurdish party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, met former Prime Minister Abdul Wakil met former Prime Minister Mohammad Yusaf during a recent European visit. Diplomatic sources reported contact in Geneva in April between representatives of the warring sides.

Israelis who sold arms to drug lords jailed

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — An Israeli businessman was sentenced to nearly five years in prison for conspiring to sell munitions to a Colombian cocaine cartel and train members of the cartel to use explosives. David Candotti, 30, was sentenced to a term of four years and nine months Friday by U.S. District Court Judge William Zloch.

In the first round of talks, Mr. Talabani and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein reached agreement in principle on reviving a 1970 accord which gave Iraq's Kurds extensive rights to run their own affairs as well as a major role in central government.

The Kurds say the agreement was never fully implemented.

Differences on the borders of the Kurdish autonomous region, in particular whether it would include the oil city of Kirkuk, and on the role of Iraq's ruling Baath Party in a promised multi-party democracy have been blocking the talks.

"We have agreed about the democracy for Iraq, election and also about a new law for the autonomous region of Kurdistan

## U.N. team preparing report on Iraq's chemical weapons

Bahrain (AP) — U.N. experts are huddled behind closed doors preparing a report on Iraq's largest single supply of chemical weapons in preparation for destroying them, a spokesman said.

However, U.N. officials have determined that the team will not be free to discuss its mission with the media, said Alistair Livingston, field operations director at the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) regional base in Bahrain.

Only a brief, formal statement will be issued after the team finalises its report, probably by mid-week, Mr. Livingston said.

The 24 team members, led by Peter Dunn of Australia, will return to their home countries to be followed by other teams to continue the weapons survey over coming weeks, Mr. Livingston said.

UNSCOM, led by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, has been charged with dismantling Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical capabilities as well as ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres.

This was stipulated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, which enforced an official cease fire to the Gulf war on April 3. The resolution also specified that trade sanctions on Iraq remain in force until Iraq gives up its non-conventional weaponry.

In its report, Mr. Dunn's team has also to line up recommendations on how to destroy the chemical weapons, hoping it is done on Iraqi sovereign territory.

Mr. Livingston confirmed that Iraq had offered to destroy the chemical weapons itself under U.N. supervision.

Mr. Dunn's team charged with inspecting only the chemical weapons sites at Muthanna state establishment, known as the "Samarra site," about 70 kilometres west of Baghdad.

That was the biggest of several sites of the chemical weapons already declared by Iraq. Future teams will inspect other sites.

Mr. Ekeus and members of the commission said they considered destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons as the toughest challenge they face because the sites were bombed during the Gulf war, were under debris and may be contaminated.

## Baker's criticism upsets Israelis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders accused U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday of meddling in local politics by criticising a hardline aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"It is not only an infringement on our sovereignty but an insult to the prime minister," Religion Minister Zeveli Hammer told reporters after a cabinet discussion of the dispute over Middle East peace policy.

The death sentences have so far been sent to the Arab League, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Vatican and the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

Ten of the other mostly Jordanian, Palestinian and Iraqi workers were sentenced to 10-year prison terms and eight labourers were acquitted.

Although ignited by reports from participants that Mr. Baker accused a Shamir aide of trying to

undermine U.S. peace efforts, the dispute reflected deeper U.S.-Israeli tension over Mr. Shamir's refusal to accept Washington's proposals for a peace conference.

"They want to pressure us in an inappropriate way to change our positions," Mr. Hammer said. "The prime minister's reaction was correct when he said he has faith in his staff and all the responsibility is his."

Mr. Baker, who has made five visits to Israel since the Gulf war trying to start peace talks, was reported to have criticised Mr. Shamir's aide Yossi Ben Aharon during a meeting with American Jewish leaders in Washington three weeks ago.

According to Israeli media, Mr. Baker was angered by comments at a meeting between Mr. Ben Aharon and State Department official Dennis Ross earlier this month. Mr. Shamir's aide apparently reopened a problem Mr. Baker thought had been resolved in his talks with the prime minister.

Mr. Shamir subsequently repe-

ated his position on peace.

Mr. Shamir regularly warns that Israel will never cave in to U.S. pressure to moderate its position on peace talks.

In addition, Mr. Shamir re-

jected U.S. compromise propos-

als for a U.N. observer to attend a peace conference and for the meeting to reconvene after six months, with Israeli approval, to hear progress reports on direct talks between states.

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## Baker says Shamir aide hampers peace process

The Jerusalem Post

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker has sharply criticised Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, for undermining agreements on the peace process reached in one-on-one meetings between Baker and Shamir, according to American Jewish leaders who met with Baker on Thursday.

Without mentioning Ben-Aharon by name, the sources said, Baker expressed his frustration to the Jewish leaders that deals struck by the U.S. with the elected leaders of Israel could be contradicted by a non-elected aide.

Officials in Shamir's office said last night that Shamir "stands behind his staff."

Ben-Aharon told the Jerusalem Post that he had "no comment" on the report. "The prime minister has said all that need be said on the subject," he explained.

In the encounter with eight leaders of the American Jewish community and well-connected Jewish Republicans, Baker also reiterated his disappointment with the "negative tone" of Shamir's latest letter to President Bush. He had expressed this unhappiness earlier Thursday in his two-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Levy.

The thrust of the criticism aimed at Ben-Aharon, the sources said, stemmed from a conversation between Ben-Aharon and State Department Policy Planning Staff Director Dennis Ross, which took place during a visit to Washington by Ben-Aharon earlier this month.

In that meeting, tempers flared and there was reportedly shouting after Ben-Aharon dismissed a written compromise on the principles underlying the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, reached between Baker and Shamir during their last meeting in Jerusalem. Ben-Aharon reportedly said that Shamir was not paying attention to details when he reached such a compromise with Baker. The State Department aides were said to be flabbergasted that an aide would allow himself to deride a written agreement reached by his superior.



Yossi Ben-Aharon

According to the Baker-Shamir compromise formula, all Palestinians living in the (occupied) territories would be eligible to be delegates to a Middle East peace conference, assuming they accept the two-track approach and are willing to live in peace.

However — and perhaps as further evidence of Ben-Aharon's influence — his version proved to be the one that Shamir adopted in his letter to Bush 10 days ago. Shamir wrote Bush that Israel would have to be allowed veto power on the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Three days ago, Ben-Aharon took the unusual step of opposing the U.S. compromise procedural formula in an op-ed piece published in the *New York Times* — the same day that Baker met with Foreign Minister Levy and the Jewish leaders.

As Ben-Aharon wrote about the involvement of an UN observer at the conference: "The presence of an observer entails more than note-taking. It would have direct contact with the delegation, submit reports to the UN, and raise questions in the General Assembly and Security Council as soon as negotiations reached their first impasse. In short, it means UN pressure on Israel licensed by its representative at the conference."

Last month, Ben-Aharon also caused a stir when he issued a contradictory assessment to that of Levy's, after Baker had obtained the consent of Gulf states to participate in the peace conference as observers. Twenty minutes after Levy emerged from a Cabinet meeting, telling reporters that the move constituted

progress, Ben-Aharon came out and said the inclusion of Gulf states adds "nothing tangible" to the peace process.

Some Israeli sources have suggested that the Bush administration may be singling out Ben-Aharon personally for responsibility for Israel's refusal to bend on the differences between Israel and the Syrians on the modalities of a peace conference. The reason behind this are thought to be a desire to preserve a smooth relationship with Shamir himself, and a clear preference that has been expressed by State Department officials for the more moderate positions articulated by Levy.

Among those who participated in the Baker meeting were Malcolm Hoenlein and Shoshana Cardin, executive director and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, along with representatives of Aipac, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, and prominent Jewish Republicans Max Fisher and George Kleio.

Participants in the meeting would not comment on whether they raised the issue of Israel's expected request for \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees and recent comments by President Bush that the guarantees would be linked to settlement activity in the administered territories. That link was echoed by Vice President Dan Quayle in a recent meeting with Aipac representatives, American Jewish sources confirmed.

One issue that was raised with Baker was the plight of Syrian Jewry. American Jewish sources said that they pressed Baker to ask Syrian President Hafez Assad to allow greater numbers of single Jewish women to leave Syria in order to marry.

Baker, the sources said, recounted a conversation he had with Assad on that topic, in which Assad claimed that the last 12 women who were released from Syria for that reason had all returned to Syria unmarried.

Baker told Assad that, according to American data, his information was completely untrue and 11 of the 12 women are happily married with children.

## Bush: Some of Iraq's nuclear capability probably survived

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. President George Bush said Saturday that some of Iraq's nuclear capability probably survived massive U.S.-led Gulf war air raids and demanded that Saddam Hussein cooperate in a U.N. probe to ensure the ceasefire accord has not been broken.

An Iraqi "defector" has told the United States that there may be four nuclear installations in northern Iraq that the United States was not aware of during the bombing missions, prompting the United Nations to review the situation.

"The implications are that he is violating agreements with the overall peace agreement," which called for an elimination of Baghdad's nuclear capability, Mr. Bush said in an interview in Los Angeles with television reporters. He was in the west coast city for a private dinner.

"One, we've got to establish the facts and, two, we have to make clear that he will not remain with a nuclear capability," Mr. Bush said. "And yes ... probably some of it did survive."

"So we've got to probe — the U.N. has a committee," he said.

"They must go and examine every lead. They must go into the places that defectors or any other pieces of intelligence lead us."

He said the Iraqi president "better be open about it. And that's one more reason there will not be any normalised relations under the status quo."

Mr. Bush said the United States will not normalise relations with Baghdad as long as President Saddam is in power.

Under terms of the permanent ceasefire to end the Gulf war, Iraq was required to scrap its nuclear capability — something Mr. Bush earlier had said was destroyed by the allied raids that pounded Baghdad's installations during the war.

The U.N. Security Council has set up a special commission to ensure compliance with the ceasefire accord and that panel will follow up on the testimony of an Iraqi "defector." The "defector" is said to be a nuclear scientist who fled to an enclave in northern Iraq under the protection of U.S. forces.

Mr. Bush said he was going to make certain Iraq complies "with

what is now international law through an agreement with all the parties that they would fully account for what's left."

"I can state this without contradiction: (Iraq's) ability to project all this into an atomic weapon has been set back into the dark ages,"

Mr. Bush said. "But nevertheless, you're right when you say there should — or indicate — that there should be concern about its possession of any of these things."

The president said the United States had no intention of easing economic sanctions against Iraq as long as President Saddam was in power, saying, "will we lighten up on international sanctions as long as he's there? No."

The U.N. Sanctions Committee has softened its position somewhat, voting on Wednesday to allow 31 countries that froze Iraqi assets to release them, provided Baghdad could prove the funds would be used for humanitarian needs.

The United States will not release the \$1.4 billion in assets it froze soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

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Mr. Bush

# Home News

## New dumping site set up near Swaqa

AMMAN (J.T.) — A site for dumping poisonous waste from factories will be ready after the coming Eid Al Adha feast, which ends by June 25, but factories have to follow a set of procedures before benefiting from the new facility, which lies some 52 kilometres east of Swaqa (located some 65 kilometres south of Amman).

The announcement was made by Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani who noted that ministry workers were now busily setting up barbed wires around the 850 dunum plot of land, and carrying out other necessary work to make the dumping site ready for use.

Workers are also setting up a one-metre high earth wall, fixing sign posts and constructing factories, for management and supervision officials to be stationed at the site, Dr. Bani Hani said.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs announced in February 1990 that it had designated areas, away from urban and rural regions, to serve as dumping grounds for dangerous waste, and that the areas selected would have pits for dumping the waste and would be cordoned off to prevent any human, agricultural and animal contact with the area.

Jordan has many factories which turn out dangerous waste, some reaching rivers and streams. Many households also cause pollution to the environment by throwing away used batteries and other waste materials which can only endanger public health, according to the ministry statement upon announcing the measures for the dumping sites.

The ministry has drawn up certain regulations and rules for managing the dumping site through a series of meetings with owners of various industrial firms and has set up a technical committee, of specialists from both

sides, to draw up a special plan in this respect and to advise on means of financing the cost of the dumping site and its operations, according to Dr. Bani Hani.

Factories wishing to benefit from the dumping site would be paying the cost at the rate of one per one thousand of their respective capitals, and these factories would also cover the cost of transporting the waste from its location to the dumping site, Dr. Bani Hani explained.

He said that the ministry had already defined types of waste that can be dumped in the selected site and stipulated that these should be covered with soil.

The ministry official referred to an international agreement, on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste, which was signed by Jordan, along with 110 other nations, at an international meeting held in the Swiss city of Basel in 1989. Jordan, he said, is committed to this agreement and will do all it can to protect the environment from any form of pollution.

Dr. Bani Hani noted that the rules concerning the dumping of waste prohibit any individual or organisation from dumping any dangerous or poisonous waste from any source and in any form in any place other than this dumping site.

In explaining the process of dumping, Dr. Bani Hani noted that the workers would be building cement walls to prevent leakage or seepage of waste into the soil.

Dr. Bani Hani voiced satisfaction with the level of cooperation with the various Jordanian industrial firms, but he urged them to settle payment of their contributions to the project.

Dr. Bani Hani also noted that his ministry was holding contacts with the World Bank to obtain a loan and expertise for the future development of the dumping site, a process which, he said, would involve the Royal Scientific Society.

## 125 to be reinstated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will reinstate 125 citizens dismissed from their posts for political reasons during 1991, as the rest of those dismissed for similar reasons had already been appointed in government positions in 1990, according to a statement by Director General of the Budget Department Salman Tarawneh.

The reappointment of those dismissed for political reasons came in implementation of directives by the Council of Ministers and pledges taken by Prime Minister Mudar Badran before Parliament, Mr. Tarawneh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Tarawneh did not disclose the number of employees reinstated in 1990, but said that public organisations, considered as semi-governmental institutions which do not fall within the "government officials manning table" system, have absorbed some 600 such employees in 1990 and 1991.

Columnists in the daily press

had been advocating the cause of the dismissed employees, noting that those who were reinstated were offered only half the salary of their colleagues and that some of them were given jobs far away from their homes, making it quite difficult for them to rejoin public service.

Mr. Tarawneh, who was speaking one day after the Cabinet had endorsed the manning table, said that during 1991 a total of 1,633 new jobs would be created in various government offices. But he noted that the Ministry of Education will acquire most people, accounting for 1,051 posts, followed by the Health Ministry, which will have 129 posts and the Ministry of Justice with 65 jobs.

The rest of the jobs would go to the ministries of youth, culture, telecommunications, agriculture, public works, higher education, finance and industry and trade.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre.

★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukani, Mohammad Al Jalani and Rifqi Al Razzaz at Abd Al Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

★ Palestinian heritage exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.

★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "Management of Non-Profit Arts Organisations" by renowned conductor Farid Al Shoufi at the National Music Conservatory, behind the Kuwait Embassy — 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry readings by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City — 7:00 p.m.

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Germany Sunday signed minutes of the annual consultations on technical and capital cooperation. The minutes include a thorough review of projects financed by Germany and future scopes of cooperation. The signing of the minutes paves the ground for official German-Jordanian negotiations, to take place in November.

Participants from these 80 nations will take part in the four-day meetings, which will open on June 17, Dr. Bani Hani said in his statement to the Jordan News

Agency, Petra.

The meetings will focus attention on the various activities and achievements of the executive committee that operates the fund, especially in areas and programmes benefiting the countries of the Third World in the fight against industrial pollution and its serious effect on the ozone layer, said Dr. Bani Hani in a statement before departure with his team to the Kenyan capital Sunday.

The creation of the Montreal

fund, which followed a general conference in the Canadian city,

was part of the technical, financial and administrative measures taken in the course of im-

plementing the terms of the Montreal protocol in this field, Dr. Bani Hani said.

Several nations have so far

pledged to provide cash for the

fund, amounting to \$53 million

and expected to rise to \$160

million, with further expected

pledges from the rich nations,

said Dr. Bani Hani.

The Nairobi meetings, he said,

will review reports about these

U.N. agencies' activities and new

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Jordan, Dr. Bani Hani said, was

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تنشر باللغة الإنجليزية في الأردن

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Reports James Baker should read

IN THE hands of the American secretary of state, James Baker, the search for peace in the Middle East has been sidetracked by a series of evasions and preconditions put forward by the Israeli government. But here and there, as impatience mounts in Washington and elsewhere over the delaying tactics of Mr. Shamir, voices are being raised, some of them quite unexpected, by those who would like to see the elusive "peace process" brought back onto the main line.

In London (in the last week of May) the retiring Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Lord Jacobowitz, put his finger on the central issue. Describing the Israeli approach to the Palestine problem as "blinkered" and "self-destructive," Lord Jacobowitz declared that "we cannot forever dominate a million and a half Arabs, lord it over them." But it is the declared intention of Israel's present government to do just that, by retaining control of territories acquired by war, and in so doing to condemn their Palestinian inhabitants for ever to a choice between servitude and exile. Unless Mr. Baker and President Bush are prepared to meet this challenge, they would do better to admit defeat now rather than continue to raise expectations which they cannot satisfy.

But perhaps Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have more allies than they realize. In that forthright statement by the chief rabbi (and despite the fact that he subsequently tried to take back his words), the use of the pronoun "we" was interesting. Lord Jacobowitz is a British citizen and an appointed member of the upper house of the British parliament. But his statement indicated that he identifies himself with the people — though not the government — of Israel, as do many Jews in Europe and the USA. And it indicated even more clearly that the chief rabbi finds himself repelled by the domineering and insensitive policies of the present government of Israel.

There is indeed much about the attitudes and actions of Mr. Shamir's government to repel all but the most fanatical supporter of Israel. In maintaining its occupation of Arab territory, in open defiance of U.N. resolutions, Israel is inevitably involved in equally flagrant breaches of international conventions concerning human rights. This is graphically illustrated in two reports recently published by independent human rights organisations, which add their criticism to those published earlier by Amnesty International and others.

In an 82-page report on Israeli prisons, Middle East Watch (based in New York, chairman Robert Bernstein) observes that Israel operates a dual prison system, one with high standards for Israeli prisoners, the other in which nearly 10,000 Palestinians are held, many of them without trial, in conditions of exceptional squalor and degradation. In particular, the report, written by Eric Goldstein, makes stringent criticisms of the Israeli prison camp at Ketzot in the Negev, where prisoners are held in tents in temperatures which exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit in summer and go down to freezing in winter. Ketzot is in itself "a clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the transfer of prisoners from occupied territories to the territory of the occupying power."

Even more damning is the 150-page report of the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights (Betsalel) on the methods used by the Israeli security service Shin Bet (or Shabak) in the interrogation of Palestinian prisoners. Based on the examination of 41 cases where the information obtained was beyond doubt, the report presents first hand accounts of torture and intimidation, with illustrations and accounts published in the Israeli press. What Jews outside Israel must find hardest to accept about this Israeli document is the assertion that the institutions of which Israelis are most proud are all in some way implicated in the ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners. The courts connive at it; doctors are aware of it; few public figures make any attempt to stop it. And as the authors of the Betsalel report conclude: "The authorities in a country where torture is being used are either directly involved or passively condoning."

Perhaps the chief rabbi has got wind of these two reports. It does not look as though Mr. Baker has seen them. Like Israel's colonisation of the occupied territories, they call for some tough talking. The practices they describe are not simply illegal, they are cruel and counter-productive; and they discredit both those who exercise them and those, in Israel and elsewhere, who pass by on the other side — Middle East International, London.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday called on the Arab countries to be careful and to beware of the American promises about solutions for the Middle East issue and the Israeli-Palestine problem in the light of Washington's present attitude towards the adamant position of the Israeli government. The Arabs must avoid any optimism with regard to American pledges or promises, and they ought to open their eyes wide to the fact that all the promises had been futile so far and nothing has been achieved, the paper noted. Not a single step has yet been taken towards the establishment of the promised American peace at a time when the Israeli government is hardening its position and refusing all bids for a just and durable peace, the paper pointed out. The daily was referring in particular to recent statements by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who told his Israeli counterpart in Washington that the U.S. administration has confidence in the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister, but that it does not trust those officials who adopt an extreme hardened position with regard to the American peace initiative. The paper said that this can only be interpreted as a sort of appeasement to the Israeli government which continues to lay obstacles in the path of peace.

A columnist in Al Dustour focuses attention on the pollution of the Zarqa River water and calls for a scientific search for its causes. Mohammad Daoud says that a report in the local press by the Amman Chamber of Industry casts doubts about official reports that the pollution was caused solely by the waste dumped in the river by 31 factories in the Zarqa River basin. The chamber's report contains a great deal of facts which can only cast doubt on a report offered by the official authorities which led to the closure of a number of factories, the writer notes. We are not trying to cover up for those factories which are responsible for certain levels of pollution in the dam, but we are also cautioning against considering the factories as scapegoats to be blamed for the damage inflicted on the crops in the Jordan Valley, the writer adds. He says the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which is a scientific institution, can determine through a series of tests whether the official reports are correct before meaningful steps can be taken to put things right. Cooperation is essential between the Amman Chamber of Industry and the concerned authorities as well as the RSS if the problem is to be solved, the writer continues.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# A real Jahiliya manifestation

SPEAKING of the Jahiliya and the fear that the Arab World might be drifting back to it, one cannot think of a worse example of such manifestation than the lingering tribal justice systems. As recent as one month ago a man walked into the office of another man working in the same public building and found two men conducting their daily work. He asked the two which of them was so and so. The "right" man stood up to present himself in the normal courteous and friendly manner but instead of receiving a friendly hand shake, the stranger pulled his gun and fired at him point blank and killing him instantly. It was later determined that the killer had murdered the innocent man because one of the members of the tribe of the dead man had earlier caused the death of a member of the killer's clan. Neither the killer nor the victim ever met or knew one another. They were complete strangers to one another. If this is not epitomy of the Jahiliya then I do not know what it is. An innocent man murdered in cold blood because another man from his grand family had earlier caused the death of a cousin or nephew is beyond comprehension on the eve of the 21st century. What injustice and what arbitrary rendering of revenge. What can ever be more un-Islamic than such a system of injustice? What adds insult to injury is that the country has always prided itself on such a system of tribal justice and the government has been going along with it ever since the establishment of the Kingdom. What is worse, this system of injustice goes on day in and day out, year in and year out unabated and without as much as causing a wink in the Jordanian society.

I am truly pleased that His Majesty King Hussein had alluded to the fear that the Arabs may be reverting inadvertently or inadvertently to the Jahiliya mentality. By so doing, the King has given all of us ammunition to attack the remnants of such days of ignorance and darkness that still linger in our souls. It would surely be a most welcome gesture of the government to take a bold initiative in this vein in order to uproot all manifestations of the pre-Islamic era still infesting the Jordanian society. One can suggest many ways to wage war on the Jahiliya symptoms in the Kingdom but the most effective way to combat the archaic and grossly unjust tribal justice is to sponsor a all-tribal conference to which all tribal chiefs would be invited. The purpose of such an all-out conference would be to examine the ways and means necessary for the eradication of tribal justice once and for all. Only through the blessing of the tribes of the country, big and small, may the country have an opportunity to halt the senseless carnage of innocent people. Concurrently with such a campaign against tribal injustice, the religious leaders of the country are called upon to make the theme of their sermons on Fridays and Sundays the need to obliterate such a system completely as sacrilegious. There is no way that Islam or Christianity can condone such continuation of injustice. The two religions must join hands here and now to stop it immediately.

The public as well needs to be reeducated in order to rely on the official court system of the country for the administration of

justice. No one would advocate the spread of crime with impunity. The country obviously requires a more efficient court system in order to render justice in the shortest possible time. As long as the civil and criminal courts of law in the Jordan are so wantonly lacking, the people would be driven to taking the law in their own hands. There has been so much talk about the urgent need to revamp the entire judicial system in the country with a view to making it more efficient and proficient. The trouble is that the talk remained talk with nothing concreting done to amend the archaic judicial system. People need to believe that their grievances whether criminal or civil can be redressed expeditiously and justly. How many times it has to be said before someone somewhere begins to take the complaints against the state's judicial system seriously. One look and one visit to the courts of the country, especially the lower courts, would readily reveal the obvious. Nevertheless, as lacking as the country's court systems may be, there can be no excuse for the continuation of the current tribal way of taking it on innocent people every time a crime is committed or a death is negligently caused. The intervention of the government and Parliament is urgently needed to stem this Jahiliya phenomenon and surgically remove it from the traditions of the Kingdom. There is no room for revenge in Islam and the sooner the country and its people respect this the sooner the Jahiliya days will be behind us. Too bad the National Charter did not address this problem.

## Pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC: A cloak and dagger operation at heart of U.S.

By Lloyd Grove  
Washington Post

Subject: Israel.  
Target: Nancy Kassebaum.  
Methods: Sweet reason, shock therapy.

A DOZEN pro-Israel activists filed into Kassebaum's Senate office. Two staffers carried in extra chairs, and the Kansas Republican helped set them up.

"The question," Shai Pozek told Kassebaum, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "is how do we go about getting this peace process going?" A retired discount shoe store tycoon, sporting athletic footwear this morning, Pozek used to share a back-yard fence with her father, Alf Landon — which is why he was there. She nodded politely. The pleasantries were over.

"Israel," Pozek told her, "will do everything short of national suicide to make peace."

"Isn't the PLO going to have to be there at some point, Shai?" She demanded of Pozek, a frequent political contributor — though not, in recent years, to Kassebaum. The room fell deathly still at the mention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as though someone had just suggested... national suicide. "It seems to me that this is an opportunity," Kassebaum went on, her jaw set, "and everybody's got to be willing to give."

Frowns spread around the room.

So much for sweet reason. Kassebaum's visitors that morning, most of them with Kansas connections, were from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — AIPAC, for short — the foreign policy equivalent of the National Rifle Association. Their mission, a life-defining one, is "strengthening the American-Israel relationship," mainly by securing American aid for the Jewish state and blocking U.S. weapons sales to hostile Arabs.

It was March 19: The Senate was poised to take up the Desert Storm "dire emergency" appropriations package, which included \$650 million in extra aid for Israel. The country already gets \$3 billion annually, and hundreds of millions more from joint military ventures — more than any other recipient of American largesse. AIPAC had deployed a battalion of 1,500 "citizen lobbyists" from their hotel to Capitol Hill armed with 10 pages of talking points and individualized computer printouts of their appointments with members of Congress. It cost more than \$13,000 just to lease the buses.

Kassebaum was already on record against the additional aid. "I need to say something here," erupted Allen Moshersill of Shawnee, Kan., a member of AIPAC's grass-roots brigade.

"First of all, I'm not Jewish, okay? It's important for you to understand that." The senator nodded, understandingly. Moshersill, a big, bearded man, looked ready to leap from his chair.

"I've seen this country stab its own people in the back," he said, his eyes misting. "We should tell Israel, 'Here's the money,' whatever the hell it is they need. George Bush and this goddamn administration..." Suddenly he was sobbing. He gasped for breath. "They got a country. They don't want much. They got New Jersey!" Tears moistened his cheeks. "I'm sorry," he trailed off.

A weak smile was plastered on the senator's face. Pozek pretended that nothing unusual had

occurred.

"The Desert Storm supplemental is coming up today," he said breezily. "I hope you'll support it."

"Shai, it's going to pass without any difficulty," Kassebaum curtly cut him off. She rolled her eyes. "That's a foregone conclusion."

The next day, she voted against the package, which the Senate nevertheless approved, 92 to 8. Still, AIPAC is not known for giving up easily.

AIPAC is one of the most resented and respected, admired and feared, lobbying organisations in the United States. Kassebaum is one of very few in Congress who will speak bluntly about the group on the record.

"Sometimes," she said, "they're just absolutely, totally inflexible."

If so, perhaps it's because so many Jews, no matter how comfortable in American society, feel themselves linked to a long history of worldwide persecution, ending with the Holocaust in which 6 million perished. Israel, in the minds of some, may be the only safe haven — and thus deserves special treatment.

Those in Congress and elsewhere who disagree, or complain about AIPAC's heavy-handedness, tend to do so sotto voce — terrified of being branded with the epithet "antisemite" or, even worse, "self-hating Jew." In March, half the Senate and a third of the House accepted invitations to schmooze with 2,100 true believers at AIPAC's 32nd annual police conference, an impressive show of pro-Israel power. In the oft-repeated catchphrase of AIPAC's detractors, the lobby has made Israel "America's 51st state."

But now, with the arrival of the post-Gulf war era, AIPAC is grappling with a potential "New World Order" in which foreign conclusions will be a thing of the past.

In stark contrast to Ronald Reagan's, the Bush administration is perceived by Israel and its supporters as one of the least friendly to Israel in history. No matter that AIPAC helped Bush gain authorisation for Desert Storm by lobbying Congress behind the scenes. Since the war, to which Israel's contribution was absorbing Iraqi missile strikes without retaliating — the administration has been prodding the stiff-necked Likud government and its Arab antagonists into an as-yet-undefined peace conference. Bush and his surrogates have called upon the tiny country to give up territory to its enemies, and condemned Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands as an "obstacle" to peace, a stance the Likudists regard as biased by his.

President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in the delicate phrase of a former Israeli diplomat, "have communications difficulties." And Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who travelled to Israel in March for the first time in his life, has been privately assuring Arab leaders, according to a close adviser of one, that this administration will play no role in its approach to the Middle East peace process. Baker's spokeswoman, Margaret Turtwiler, declined to comment on this account.

Do they (AIPAC) have a friend in this administration? No, they don't," said a well-placed U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They're just absolutely, totally inflexible."

AIPAC officials heatedly dispute the charges, and privately complain that such dissension in the ranks serves only the enemies of Israel and the Jewish people.

Publicly, the lobby defends the Likud government, a stance that puts it at odds with much of U.S. Jewry, and takes no position on settlements. Behind the scenes, it remonstrates with the Israelis against Likud policies that irritate the State Department.

But Beilin complains that

AIPAC has closed its ears to the views of Israeli moderates. He said that as spokesman for the opposition from 1977 to 1984, he was continually rebuffed when he sought AIPAC's hacking for Labour peace proposals.

"With all due respect," he recalled AIPAC officials telling him, "We are working with the government of Israel."

In 1984, when Labour and Likud formed a "unity government" under Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Beilin saw his chance. He went to AIPAC once again, seeking support for Peres's plan for an international peace conference.

"They said, 'With all due respect, this (Peres) is not the government of Israel, but only the prime minister of Israel,'" Beilin recounted.

If AIPAC vexes some Israelis, the Bush administration's attitude is equally vexing to AIPAC.

Perhaps even more so — because in recent years the lobby has courted the executive branch as energetically as it has the Congress.

The general practice of executive branch lobbying, according to some staunch supporters of Israel, such as Rep. Larry Smith (D-Fla.), has occasionally led AIPAC to pull its punches in order not to alienate key administration policy-makers.

AIPAC officials are frankly nervous about the outcome.

"Any time the Israeli government takes a position different from U.S. policy," said Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "some members of Congress then set some diminution in their enthusiasm for U.S. support for Israel. AIPAC has to cope with that."

As the pro-Israel lobby araigned to speak for the major U.S. Jewish organisations — not as some persist in believing, Israel's registered agent — AIPAC has prospered mightily since its birth 37 years ago. In the past decade, the lobby has quadrupled its staff to more than 100 and quintupled its membership to 55,000 households — attracting a new breed of non-Jewish activists like Allen Moshersill — while its member-families budget has grown even more from \$1.4 million in 1980 to \$12 million in 1991.

It owes much of its growth to Tom Dine, the lobby's executive director for the past decade, a charismatic proponent of pressure-group politics.

Yet AIPAC's rapid expansion has forced it to cope with a host of competing constituencies — from liberal Democratic Jews to conservative Republican members of Congress, from American doves to Israeli hard-liners. The lobby also faces mounting and contradictory criticism, from a wide array of political activists, both here and in Israel. It is accused, alternately, of climbing into bed with the executive branch at the expense of its friends in Congress; allying itself with the Republican Party at the expense of its ties to the Democrats; and becoming a creature of the Likud Party at the expense of Labour — "representing," according to Yossi Beilin, a Labour member of the Israeli parliament, "the Israel That Fuses."

AIPAC officials heatedly dispute the charges, and privately complain that such dissension in the ranks serves only the enemies of Israel and the Jewish people.

Publicly, the lobby defends the Likud government, a stance that puts it at odds with much of U.S. Jewry, and takes no position on settlements. Behind the scenes, it remonstrates with the Israelis against Likud policies that irritate the State Department.

But Beilin complains that

playing rough.

"We are slaves to some of the lobbying groups," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.) complained on the day of the Desert Storm vote. "I do not have to name names," Byrd went on, "but I could."

"My colleagues think AIPAC is a very, very powerful organisation that is ruthless, and very, very alert," said another senator who, like so many on the subject of AIPAC, asked that his name not be named. "Eighty per cent of the senators here roll their eyes on some of the votes. They know that what they're doing is not what they really believe is right, but why fight on a situation where they're liable to get beat up on?"

"There's no countervailing sentiment," this senator added, noting that the small but ardent circle of pro-Israel activists, unlike its Arab-American counterpart, gives millions of dollars every election cycle to candidates for office. "If you vote contrary to the tremendous pressure of AIPAC, no one says to you, 'That's great.'"

The 1984 defeat of Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) — the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee who crossed the line in recent years to support pro-Israel money. "All the Jews in America, from coast to coast, gathered to oust Percy," Dine claimed in a speech after the 1984 election. "And American politicians... got the message."

Yet many U.S. Jews are uncomfortable with such talk, and see the spectre of antisemitism behind every public reference to

# Democracy is key to Arab future

Democracy is gaining ground in some parts of the Arab world. Intellectuals and thinkers are increasingly advocating democratisation as a basic solution to the political and social problem plaguing the Arab world. Jordan Times Staff Reporter Lamis Andoni reviews the current debate.

AMMAN — The Gulf war — more specifically Iraq's defeat — and the sorry state of Arab affairs have intensified the debate and added to pressures in favour of democratisation which is increasingly viewed as the only way to restore Arab unity and strength.

From Morocco, in North Africa, to Qatar in the Gulf, an increasing number of Arab intellectuals, including those who had supported and opposed Iraq during the war, are openly challenging Arab governments by advocating unconditional democratisation and broader popular participation in government.

Many Arab governments, mostly under increasing popular pressures intensified by resentment of foreign military intervention in the region during the Gulf war, have introduced some legal reforms but experts note that changes remain weak and limited.

Furthermore, analysts warn, the growing debate in favour of democracy could be undermined by the prevalence of emergency laws in most Arab countries as well as by the absence of free press, the rise of conservative fundamentalism and political divisions among advocates of democracy in the Arab world."

**"Analysts warn the growing debate in favour of democracy could be undermined by the prevalence of emergency laws in most Arab countries as well as by the absence of free press, the rise of conservative fundamentalism and political divisions among advocates of democracy in the Arab world."**

According to Egyptian thinker Talaat Musalam, the destruction of Iraqi military might and the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf has undermined Arab national security and completely tipped the balance of power in favour of Israel.

In a recent study Mr. Musalam, who is a retired major general, cites the "weak or absence of political popular participation" as a major factor which has led to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the subsequent U.S.-led intervention in the Gulf.

The "new political thinking" has sprung from a critical assessment of the Gulf war by Arab thinkers, who believe that the absence of political freedoms has been a major factor which has led to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the subsequent U.S.-led intervention in the Gulf.

In practical terms, some Arab thinkers argue, neither Iraqi President Saddam Hussein nor leaders of the oil-producing Gulf states would have "dared" to invade Kuwait or invite Western troops had there been democratic systems in their countries.

Saddam or the governments who had agreed to join the alliance? Secondly, the attitude towards the Arab people in the Gulf.

At a conference of Arab intellectuals held recently in Amman, Iraqi political scientist Wamidh Omar Nathni conceded that absence "of the minimum level of democracy in Iraq" had been one of the major mistakes of the Iraqi leadership.

Dr. Nathni argued, however, that the Iraqi leadership's mistakes did not justify the other Arab governments' participation in the war against Iraq. "If Iraq had made mistakes, these governments had committed greater sins by taking part in the war against the Iraqi people," added Dr. Nathni, who has been openly critical of Iraqi abuses of human rights in Kuwait.

Many intellectuals in the Gulf, including those who had always advocated Arab unity throughout the crisis.

pan Arab nationalists and other sectors of people across the Arab World for its invasion of Kuwait as the "prelude to achieving total Arab unity." But the Gulf war seems to have ended that particular debate over the righteousness of achieving Arab unity by force and consequently sacrificing democracy in the process.

Democracy should not be sacrificed for any other value, or cause — including Arab unity," said a declaration approved by more than sixty prominent Arab thinkers who met in Amman.

In many ways this new conclusion could prove to be a turning point in pan Arab nationalist thinking which had in the past given priority to Arab sovereignty and unity over democracy — an argument often used by Arab intellectuals who were critical of the Iraqi leadership's repression but had supported Iraq throughout the crisis.

**Wamidh Omar Nathni**

conservative cleric converged on the governor's palace in northern Saudi Arabia when officials banned the preacher from giving his sermon. The incident raised fears that the palace might crack down on the liberal reformist trend to placate the conservatives.

Clashes in Algiers between Muslim fundamentalists, who are demanding an Islamic state, and police this past week have also aroused concern over the fate of the democratic experiment in North African countries.

Moreover, martial laws, which exist in many Arab countries including Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Somalia, Mauritania and even Jordan (the government has frozen it pending complete cancellation), obstruct the path of democracy and render even civil rights guaranteed by the constitutions obsolete.

Signs of openness and liberalisation in Iraq are still in their infant stages and many Iraqis still view them with scepticism although Baghdad has lifted important restrictions on travel and other rights.

Until last week's bloody confrontation between government forces and Islamic fundamentalists, Algeria and Jordan — two countries which refused to join the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq — were viewed as the most promising models for democratic transformation in the Arab World.

Jordan has already ratified a national charter, allowing for a pluralistic system in Jordan in return for a clear-cut allegiance of the political parties to the constitution of the land.

Many Arab observers express concern that growing Islamic conservatism could hinder democratisation as it tries to impose its idea and strict Islamic codes in countries which have allowed political openings for their peoples.

In his speech following this the approval of the National Charter, His Majesty King Hussein warned against the monopoly of one party over the political life on Jordan.

The situation in North Africa, however, seems more sensitive. Some human rights activists in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia accuse the Islamic trend of trying to sabotage the struggle for democracy by aiming at controlling and monopolising political life in these countries.

The real threat lies in that the Islamic fundamentalists are using democracy to end democracy — a Moroccan human rights activist who preferred anonymity, in reference to statements by fundamentalists implying that they would cancel laws or constitutions allowing pluralism if they were elected to power.

## What does Israel have to fear from the U.N.?

By Abba Eban  
The New York Times

BY accepting the Middle East peace conference proposed by President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, Israel could register a breakthrough for its central interests. The benefits would include negotiations with Arab states, dialogue with mainstream Palestinians, intimate cooperation with the U.S. in a peace process, a new status in the European Community and diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

The total result would be an economic upsurge that would help Israel solve the problems created by the providential arrival of immigrants from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

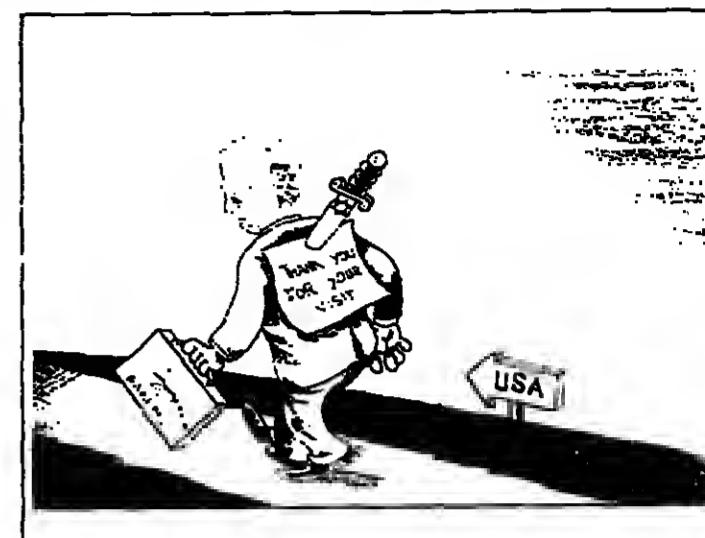
America's proposal envisages the symbolic presence of a U.N. observer at a conference at which the U.S. and Soviet Union would be chairmen. There is nothing new or significant in this idea. The U.N. secretariat presided in the Geneva peace conference of 1973 without claiming any influence on the proceedings.

Mr. Baker has worked hard and successfully to oppose a Syrian request to give the U.N. a coercive role. It would be tragic if vital benefits were wasted because of an exaggerated fear of a U.N. presence.

Contrary to the standard view, the U.N. is not a traditional adversary of Israel. No nation has derived comparable advantage from it. The Security Council is the heart of the system; the only General Assembly resolutions called "decisions" define the structure of the world community through U.N. membership.

The assembly exercised that power in resolution 273 on May 11, 1949, when it admitted Israel to membership. That decision transcends the obscene graffiti of 1975 defaming Zionism as "Racism."

The Security Council's role in Israel's history is complex



and, in its overall result, creative. In June 1948, it voted the truce without which the first of Israel's wars could have ended tragically and without victory. In July, the council denounced the Arab's resumption of war and ordered a ceasefire on pain of sanctions. In November, a council resolution inaugurated the four armistice accords that stabilised Israel's territorial structure on the basis of successes in its war of independence.

In 1951, the Security Council defined Egypt's blockade of Israeli shipping in the Suez Canal as illegal. From 1957 to 1967, U.N. forces cooperated with Israel in establishing its right of free navigation in the Straits of Tiran and immunity from attacks from Gaza.

There have been many unbalanced council statements. But these have been rhetorical commentaries on passing events, while the council's pragmatic, unsentimental determinations on security, international law and negotiation across four decades are among Israel's principal diplomatic and legal defences to this day.

The U.N. should neither be idolised nor demonised. It mirrors today's international system. Its flag rightfully belongs wherever the idea of peace is realistically debated.

### Jordan seeks to block executions

(Continued from Page 1)

Kuwaiti woman and a Jordanian woman, were sent to jail for 15 years. The women started sobbing hysterically when the sentences were read.

Other jail sentences included one man for 10 years and two for seven years. Six people were acquitted.

### Pro-Israel lobby in the U.S.

(Continued from page 4)

stories "within eye toward litigation."

"That sounds to me like a threat of legal action," Carroll replied.

"Nobody is threatening you," Dershowitz interjected, before the conversation abruptly ended.

Carroll phoned Dershowitz back to tell her that Cohler was

his reporter, he had no reason to doubt his journalistic abilities.

"Fine," she replied, according to Carroll's notes. "Then what about writing a positive editorial about our exoneration?"

"We've never pushed anybody around," Tom Dine said recently. "That's part of the lore."

Other jail sentences passed Sunday included three men sent to jail for 25 years with hard labour — Adib Nayif, a stateless man; Hamid Radif, an Iraqi and Jasim Nasr Abdullah, whose nationality was not known.

Five people, including a

Ishkin, according to Carroll's notes, said Cohler's reporting on AIPAC had raised serious questions about his accuracy. If he were to cover that week's ruling, Ishkin warned the editor, AIPAC would re-examine his previous

misdeeds.

In 1989, a coalition of Americans, former U.S. ex-congressmen, a former congressional lobby spending campaign targeting the domestic PACs (AIPAC, not a political action committee) was formed to demand that AIPAC stop supporting the U.S. policy of supporting Israel.

Not only did AIPAC ignore the coalition's demands, it

continued to support the

U.S. policy of supporting Israel.

Carroll recalled that he'd think about it again and Carroll in the story. A few days later, Carroll was writing to AIPAC's legal department. Dershowitz said, "I think they're still Carroll's notes in the

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## GERMAN SOCCER

## Kaiserslautern caps dream year

BONN (R) — Kaiserslautern, the backwoodsman of German soccer, clinched their first Bundesliga title for nearly four decades on the final day of the season Saturday.

The club, who were battling against relegation last season, struck four first half goals to set up a 6-2 win over Cologne. The victory gave them their first championship since 1953.

Kaiserslautern finished the season three points ahead of reigning champion Bayern Munich, who could only draw 2-2 at home with relegated Bayer Uerdingen.

The Bavarians had been widely tipped to snatch the title on goal difference if the southwest club slipped up against Cologne, who were still in the running for a UEFA cup place.

But striker Bernhard Winkler,

playing his first full league game, scored twice as Kaiserslautern cruised to a 4-1 halftime lead.

They went on to become the only second team to take the title away from Bayern in the past seven seasons.

After failing to clinch the title last Saturday when they lost 3-2 to Borussia Moenchengladbach — their first defeat at home this season. Kaiserslautern had a nervous week preparing for the crunch game.

But, roared on by 40,000 Kaiserslautern fans packed into Cologne's Muengerborster stadium, they settled their nerves with a goal in the fourth minute. Defender Marco Haber fired a low free kick past German World Cup goalkeeper Bodo Illgner.

Eleven minutes later Winkler touched in a neat cross from Uwe

Scherr to score his first goal. Cologne had midfielder Hans Flick sent off in the 31st minute for his second but managed to pull one back two minutes later with a Frank Ordenevitz penalty.

Kaiserslautern then virtually sealed the issue with two goals inside two minutes just before the table.

Winkler slotted home his second from close range in the 44th minute and Thomas Booley hit Kaiserslautern's fourth in the dying seconds of the half.

Frank Greiner scored for Cologne one minute into the second half but Haber's second strike in the 78th minute and a goal from midfielder Markus Schupp in the last minute completed Cologne's misery.

The triumph marked a remarkable turnaround in Kaiserslautern's fortunes since trainer Karlheinz Feldkamp took charge in February last year when the club were second from bottom of the table.

In three months, the 57 year old Feldkamp guided the team to their first German cup win and 12th place in the table.

A year later Feldkamp has clinched his first league title after 21 years as a coach.

"It was important for the whole of Germany that we won and Bayern didn't," said Bogley after the team had been presented with the silver plate trophy.

"We were outsiders. But we deserved to win the title because we played well throughout the season and always came at teams when we played away.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

## Edberg moves into Queens Club final

LONDON (AP) — Top-ranked Stefan Edberg yielded only four points on his serve as he overpowered American Malvai Washington 6-4, 6-2 Saturday to move into the final of the \$500,000 Queens Club men's grass court tennis championship. In Sunday's final he will face either David Wheaton, the no. 6 seed, or another Swede, Anders Jarryd, whose match was suspended with the American leading 6-3, 4-4. The Wheaton-Jarryd semifinal was delayed three hours by rain and officials decided the light was too poor for it to continue. It will finish Sunday with the final played later in the day.

## Seles in charge of heart on federation cup

BELGRADE (R) — World number one Monica Seles has had a change of heart and will play for Yugoslavia in next month's federation cup women's team tennis event. "One of Seles's managers called us and confirmed she would play in Nottingham (England)," Zoran Peric, general secretary of the Yugoslav Tennis Federation, said Saturday. Seles said in January after representing her country in a mixed team event she did not intend playing in the federation cup because none of her potential women team mates was strong enough. But she said she hoped to play in the Olympic. Under new rules announced during the recent French Open players have to make themselves available for the federation cup to be able to take part in the Olympics.

## S. Korean Choi Hi Yong retains WBA title

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Choi Hi Yong retained the World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum weight title with a unanimous points decision over Philippines challenger Sugar Ray Mike Saturday. Choi, 25, defending his title in a 13-round bout in Taegu, 230 kms from Seoul, scored 118-110, 119-108 on the cards of the three judges. It was his first defence of the title he took the crown from compatriot Kim Bon Jun in February. Choi put his 21 year old challenger on the floor in the first round, and kept the initiative throughout the bout. Mike was nearly down again in the last round as the crowd cheered on Choi, who now has an 11-0 career record.

## Bubka injured in French meet

DIJON, France (A9) — Sergei Bubka, who has broken World Pole Vault records six times this year, withdrew from a French track and field meet Saturday with a minor leg injury. The Soviet was hoping to set a new world outdoor mark for the third time this season, but felt a slight pull in his left calf while warming up for the event. He said it was not serious but decided not to compete as a precaution. He set a record of 6.08 metres (19 feet-1 1/4 inches) last Sunday in Moscow after opening the outdoor season with a vault of 6.07 metres (19 feet-1 inches) in Japan May 6. He set four world indoor marks this winter and has set 26 world pole vault records, indoor and outdoor, since clearing 5.81 metres (19-0) in 1984. The event Saturday was won by Ferenc Salbert of

France at 5.70 metres (18-8 1/4). The only other international athlete of note, Katrin Krabbe of Germany, was beaten in the women's 100-metre sprint by France's Marie-Josée Pérec with a time of 11.28 seconds into a strong wind. Krabbe, who won three gold medals for east Germany in last September's European championships, was second in 11.37.

## Weissenborn wins men's foil world title

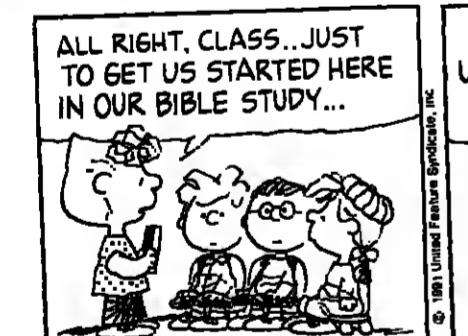
BUDAPEST (R) — Ingo Weissenborn of Germany defeated compatriot Thorsten Weidner 5-1 5-6 5-2 to win the men's foil competition at the World Fencing Championships Friday. The title was Weissenborn's first in an individual event, his previous best being a seventh place finish at the 1987 World Championships. He won a silver medal in the team competition in 1988 and a bronze in the team event in 1986. "I dreamt about finally winning the top prize," said Weissenborn, who competed for East Germany before reunification. He is the third German fencer to win the world foil title in the last five years. In the last year, Weissenborn, who previously trained in Potsdam, has been working at Thüberschöfheim, the fencing centre which has produced many West German champions. The facilities are better and the competition is tougher, and this has helped my preparation greatly," Weissenborn said. Neither defending Olympic champion Stefano Cerioni of Italy nor 1990 world champion Philippe Omnes of France reached the final eight.

## Canadian places second in race

TONSBERG, NORWAY (AP) — Ben Johnson, competing for the third time this season, finished second behind Germany's Wolfgang Haupt in a 100-metre race at an International Track and field meet Saturday. Johnson was timed in 10.41 seconds, four hundredths of a second behind Haupt. No other foreigners competed. Third went to Kenneth Kjensi of Norway in 10.52. Johnson was slightly faster than his first two outdoor meets this season. He was fifth in 10.54 three weeks ago at Granada, Spain, his first outdoor race after completing a two-year suspension for testing positive for steroids at the 1988 summer Olympics. Johnson had a modest 10.69 in a 100-metre heat on May 30 at Seville, Spain. Johnson was silent and sometimes aggressive during his hour-long workout at the Tonsberg Greveskogen sports park Friday. The Norwegian News Agency NTB reported that Johnson chased a photographer from the local newspaper, Tonsberg Blad, across the grass and threatened to smash his cameras if he took another picture. The 29-year-sprinter did not demand his customary appearance fee for running at the Norwegian meet, but refused to answer any questions from the local newspaper unless it paid him \$2,000, said NTB. "We won't answer a single question unless we get paid," Johnson's trainer Clyde Duncan told NTB after organisers asked him to arrange a brief press conference Friday. Johnson reportedly received 35,000 and 20,000 dollars in appearance fees from the Spanish organisers last month.



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt 'n' Jeff

## Japan to host winter Olympics

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — The Japanese city of Nagano was awarded the 1998 Olympics Saturday, beating out Salt Lake City to bring the winter games to Asia for the first time in 26 years.

The politics of geography prevailed as the International Olympic Committee voted to put the games in Asia rather than in the United States for a second straight time.

Nagano will be the first Asian city to host the winter games

Depalma, minutes after IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch opened the sealed envelope and announced Nagano as the winner.

U.S. President George Bush, who had previously videotaped a message to the session:

"My message is simple: There is no better choice than Salt Lake City... it is beautiful, accessible, hospitable... I urge you in the best Olympic tradition: bring the Olympic games to Salt Lake."

But those appeals were not enough. Neither was the video presentation showing skiers plowing through waist-high powder, young future-Olympians in training, buffalo grazing against a backdrop of skyscrapers.

Salt Lake City would have been the fourth American city and sixth in North America to stage the Olympics since 1976.

The other candidates were Östersund, Sweden; Aosta, Italy; and Jaca, Spain.

"I think it's a fair vote," said Francois Carrard, director general of the IOC. "The shift in balance in continents to Asia is a very good thing."

Perhaps the biggest loser was Sweden, which has never hosted the Olympics and was bidding for the games for a fifth straight time.

Nevertheless, Sven Heugren, an official of the Östersund committee, said Sweden would likely bid again — for the 2002 games.

## Lewis rebounds with best performances in 3 years

NEW YORK (R) — Carl Lewis called the U.S. National Championships the start of his "third career," but reincarnation might have been a better word.

Under extreme pressure, Lewis, 29, ran faster and jumped farther than he has since the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"I knew I was ready," Lewis said after edging out Olympic silver medalist Mike Powell with a final long jump of 8.64 metres Saturday.

The jump preserved a 10-year, 64-meeting winning streak in the event for Lewis, winner of six Olympic gold medals.

A day earlier he had sped from more than a metre adrift to clock 9.98 seconds behind Leroy Burrell's world record 9.90 in the 100 metres and leave spectators enthusing at his speed over the final 25 metres.

"After 1989 a lot of people wanted to write me off as dead and gone," Lewis said. "And this year people were asking how I would feel if I didn't make the world championship team."

"It was bizarre because I've had the best training sessions I've ever had the last two or three weeks."

The 9.98 was his fastest 100 metres since a 9.92 at Seoul — a time that stood as the world record until Friday.

It confirmed his conditioning, Lewis said, and helped to boost his confidence for his long jump duel with Powell.

"He's got that heart that doesn't get old," said Tom Tellez, his longtime coach.

"As long as he takes care of himself, he'll be there."



Carl Lewis

have done it," he said.

The winning jump, the 30th time he has bettered 8.60 metres was his best since recording 8.72 to win the Seoul gold.

"He's been winning for 10 years now. It comes to a point where you know you're going to win and whatever it takes you know you're going to do it," Powell said. "It just shows you how tough he is mentally."

"I still think I can jump 29 feet (8.46 metres) and run under 9.90" said Lewis, whose best in the long jump is 8.79 metres.

"He's got that heart that doesn't get old," said Tom Tellez, his longtime coach.

"As long as he takes care of himself, he'll be there."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 17, 1991

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Good day and evening for being direct with others who are currently on-top-of-the-head. New and modern forms of expression move you out of the rut toward a streamlined success.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is the time for you to get everything beneath your own roof on such an efficient and well organized plane that you have little to worry about.

**TAROTUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Start the day right by being off and away to see any and all allies with whom you can reach some new contacts of value.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have many new ideas and combine mental awareness and emotional fervor to make these to advantage in your particular hangout now.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Make a point now to let those about see what you want to get along with them better and that you will do what they would like if they also back you they also back you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can start the day by getting into the work facing you and finishing it off with a flourish, so you free hours, for new undertakings of importance.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Do whatever project facing you efficiently and quickly so you can get a specialist to assist you in this purpose.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Take time out to be with friends you like and to see those that have been set up for you or that appeals so much.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TARFD

RUGPO

GLEANT

IBBART

I'm against at change!

5-8

THAT STANDPATTER'S MOST ANNOYING TRAIT WAS NOT HIS 'STAND' BUT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HIS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: APPLY BULLY STOJO LAYMAN

Answer: In the race to the star she was on this—THE LAST LAP

## World leader Capirossi wins 125-cc event

MADRID, Spain (AP) — World standings leader Loris Capirossi smoked the field by more than five seconds Sunday to win the 125-cc event of the motorcycling Grand Prix of Europe.

The Italian leader posted a time of 41 minutes, 51.704 seconds on the Jarama Circuit, 5.534 seconds faster than countryman and Honda teammate Fausto Gresini and 8.596 seconds ahead of third-place finisher Pe-

ter Oettli of Germany, on Rotax. The Grand Prix of Europe replaced the Yugoslav Grand Prix at Rijeka, which was moved to Madrid by the International Motorcycling Federation because of political tension in the Balkan country.

Capirossi averaged 132.436 kilometres (82.110 miles) per hour over 24 laps of the 3.850-metre (2.39-mile) per hour over 24 laps of the 3.850-metre (2.39-mile) circuit.

The Italian said he was pleased with his performance.

"I'm happy with my result,"</

# Economy

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

## Weekly F.X. Market Summary (June 10 - June 14, 1991)

THE DOLLAR edged higher in active trading through most of last week's trading sessions, to reach its highest closing levels in New York Thursday. Profit-taking brought the dollar slightly lower Friday, but the U.S. currency ended the week substantially higher than its closing levels at the end of the previous week. The dollar closed at its lowest levels of the week Monday after intervention from nine central banks, not including the Federal Reserve, pared some of the gains it had achieved at the end of the previous week. It ended higher against the yen, however, on weak performance by Japanese stock and bond markets, rumours of potential problems in the Japanese banking system and persistent expectations of a Bank of Japan discount rate cut. The dollar thus closed at (1.7677/82) marks, (141.50/60) yen and at (1.6705/10) dollars to the sterling pound.

Tuesday witnessed a yen rebound on fear of Bank of Japan (BOJ) intervention above (141.50) yen, after the release of a bullish corporate outlook survey by the BOJ. Sterling suffered, on the other hand, as a growing rift between supporters of British Prime Minister John Major and former prime minister Margaret Thatcher within the ruling Conservative Party, fuelled concerns that the Tories might do badly in the next general elections.

The dollar continued its rise against EMS currencies Wednesday, while fear of BOJ intervention continued to limit its upside potential against the yen (141.50). The dollar's rise came in anticipation of the release of a batch of U.S. economic statistics Thursday and Friday, which dealers expected to shed favourable new insights on the direction of U.S. economic activity.

The dollar rose further Thursday, after the release of retail sales and producer price statistics for May. Retail sales jumped by (1%) and producer prices rose by (0.6%), whereas the market had anticipated rises in the order of (0.6%) and (0.3%), respectively. But a bout of profit-taking took place after the dollar breached resistance at (1.80) marks, as dealers squared positions ahead of the weekend, and for fear of central bank intervention, the dollar thus closed at its highest levels for the week at (1.7993/03) marks, (141.30/40) yen and at (1.6335/45) dollars to the sterling pound.

Profit-taking continued Friday, despite the release of industrial production figures for May, revealing a rise of (0.5%), while capacity utilisation rose to (78.7%) from (78.3%) in April. Consumer prices for May rose by a slight (0.2%), on the other hand, dampening expectations of tighter Federal Reserve monetary policy, which were fuelled by producer price figures the previous day.

Expectations for the dollar continue to be bullish, as the U.S. currency is expected to rise further next week, unless its rise is checked by aggressive central bank intervention.

### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

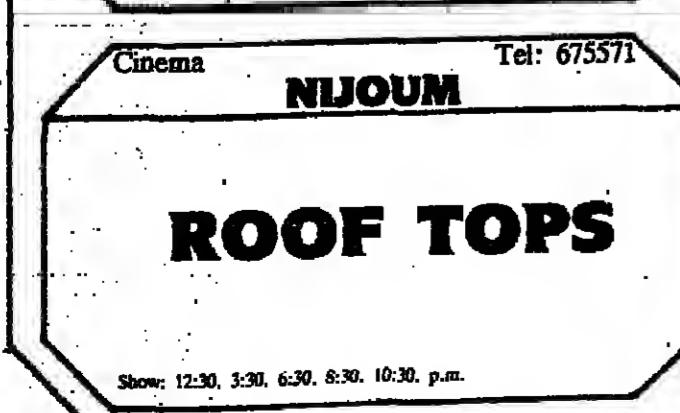
Currency	7/6/1991 Close	14/6/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.6710	1.6329	- 2.29%
Deutsche Mark	1.7720	1.7950	- 1.28%
Swiss Franc	1.5182	1.5388	- 1.34%
French Franc	6.0020	6.0985	- 1.55%
Japanese Yen	140.47	140.71	- 0.16%
USD Per STG			

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*						
Currency	7/6/1991			14/6/1991		
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)		
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.87	5.87	6.67		
Sterling Pound	11.50	10.81	11.31	10.68		
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.00	8.75	9.12		
Swiss Franc	8.12	7.81	7.87	7.68		
French Franc	9.56	9.43	9.62	9.62		
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.37	7.90	7.50		

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 16/6/1991		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1187	1.1243
Deutsche Mark	.3820	.3839
Swiss Franc	.4452	.4478
French Franc	.1123	.1129
Japanese Yen*	.4870	.4894
Dutch Guilder	.5387	.5404
Swedish Krona	.1060	.1065
Italian Lira*	.0512	.0515
Belgian Franc	.01856	.01865
Per 100		



Unless it perseveres with efforts to move to free market economy

## Analyst predicts Soviet Union to be net oil importer by '96

SINGAPORE (R) — The Soviet Union will be a net oil importer by 1996 unless it perseveres with efforts to move to a free market economy, Mr. Eugene Khartukov, chief of the world energy analysis and forecasting group in Moscow, has said.

But if it moves slowly towards a market economy with gradual increases in domestic prices of crude and products, and limited involvement of Western oil companies, it will still be exporting more than two million barrels per day (b/d) by the end of the century, he told an oil and money conference in Singapore.

In 1990, the Soviet Union produced 11.5 million b/d, consumed 8.5 million and exported three million b/d surplus.

But if the reforms stop, indigenous oil production will rapidly decline to less than nine million b/d in the year 2000, consumption will increase to 11 million b/d and net oil exports dry up by 1995, he said.

The other extreme would be rapid marketisation of the Soviet economy with steadily rising domestic prices for crude and products aimed at their world

parties by 2000.

A free economy and influx of Western investment would lead to fairly quick stabilisation and slow growth of crude and condensate output to almost 12 million b/d by the year 2000, with an exportable surplus rising to nearly six million b/d, he said.

With a gradual move to a market economy, prices would be \$29 per barrel by 2000, he said.

Ongoing and future oil developments in the Soviet Union deserve no less attention of Western analysts than that traditionally paid to other major oil-exporting regions of the world," he concluded.

"Indeed, the producing oil fields are badly watered and depleted and at least a third of the oil pipelines need replacing," he

said. But under the more likely slow liberalisation of economic conditions with limited involvement of Western oil companies, by the end of the century Soviet oil production will go down to 10 million b/d, domestic oil consumption — after peaking at 8.7 million in 1996 — will fall to eight million b/d and the exportable surplus will recover from its lowest level of 1.6 million in 1996 to 2.1 million b/d.

Mr. Khartukov said changes in political and economic conditions in the Soviet Union will have a greater effect on the price of oil than oil supply disruptions in the Middle East.

A rapid move to a market economy would result in an oil price of \$22 a barrel by the year 2000, while lack of reform and rapidly falling exports would push prices to \$36.

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## Fight off aid-fatigue, FAO urges rich states

ROME (R) — The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has urged rich countries to fight off aid-fatigue and help victims of a string of recent disasters.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma told 49 donor countries and agencies that Western governments must not leave victims to fate.

Official figures showed May year-on-year inflation measured by the retail price index was 5.8 per cent, compared with 6.4 per cent in April and a peak last September and October of 10.9 per cent.

The news was one bright spot in a week of gloom for the government, which Thursday had to announce that unemployment had risen almost to 2.25 million or eight per cent in May.

Mr. Saouma cited civil wars in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique, Angola and Liberia as well as the Gulf war as particular concerns of the FAO.

He said survivors of an April cyclone that hit Bangladesh, killing nearly 140,000 people, would find it difficult to feed themselves because of damage to crops, livestock and fisheries.

The treasury noted Thursday that inflation has fallen steadily for seven months and was below

six per cent for the first time since August 1988. Britain was "clearly on track" to a target of inflation at four per cent by the end of the year.

The decline in inflation has already allowed bank base interest rates to be reduced from 15 to 11.5 per cent.

But financial analysts said any further interest rate cuts were constrained by the need to defend the pound, which is under pressure in the markets.

The latest inflation figure is still almost double Germany's three per cent, while the Conservatives' boom-bust handling of the economy is a prime reason why they trail the opposition Labour Party by up to 10 per cent in public opinion polls.

More stubborn "underlying inflation" in May was at 6.6 per cent, down from 6.8. Thursday's figures from the Central Statistical Office showed.

It introduced a structural adjustment programme after lower oil world prices, mismanagement and corruption sent the economy from boom to near bust.

NRC Chairman Tom Ikimi told the annual meeting of the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) the reforms had expanded Nigeria's agricultural base, increased access to scarce foreign exchange for industries and provided a measure of economic stability.

SDP Chairman Baba Gana Kingibe said his party would facilitate growth, implement the social aspects of the adjustment programme and temper government participation in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

Bankruptcies in the services industry increased nearly 65 per cent in April from the previous year, with 60 per cent of the increase attributed to failures in

with slow growth to follow."

The current trend in business failures is similar to the pattern established in the previous recession year of 1982, when bankruptcies increased 48 per cent," said Mr. Duncan, Dun and Bradstreet's chief economist.

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with slow growth to follow."

The silver lining in this report is that the economy will resume growing in the second half of this year, but business investment may trail any overall recovery.

The report on investment plans projects spending at an annual rate of \$27.9 billion in the first three months of 1991, but rising in each successive quarter to a rate of \$34.1 billion by the fourth quarter.

"We're really not expecting a

source and this just backs that view," said Mr. Kathryn Kepe,

an economist with the forecasting firm Joel Popkin Co.

"The silver lining in this report

is that there are no signs of weakness," said Mr. Sam Kahan, senior economist with Fuji Securities Inc. in Chicago.

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## Iran brings in Canadians to help boost oil capacity

ISFAHAN, Iran (R) — Canadian drillers will help provide the extra power Iran needs for a planned increase in oil production capacity in the next two years, a National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) board member has said.

Drilling and exploration have been neglected for more than a decade, as other sectors took priority during the eight-year war with Iraq and foreign expertise was lost after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Up to now the drilling was done totally by Iranian personnel," NIOC director of exploration and production, Mr. Ali Moshtaghian, said in an interview.

Mr. Moshtaghian said current production capacity was close to 3.5 million b/d, of which onshore output was 3.2 million and offshore production 270,000 to 280,000 b/d.

## Eruption could derail talks on U.S. bases U.S. orders pullout as terrified Filipinos flee killer volcano

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (R) — Tens of thousands of panic-stricken Filipinos crowded onto buses and trucks or fled on foot Sunday from an erupting volcano which killed at least 60 people in a weekend of terror.

Packed buses, trucks and jeeps jammed routes out of a 40-kilometre danger zone around Mount Pinatubo, which bombarded nearby towns with pearly, red hot lava and ash and forced the closure of Clark Air Base, the largest U.S. air base in Asia.

The United States began evacuating 20,000 dependents of American servicemen from Subic Bay Naval Base on the Philippine northwest coast as scientists warned that further explosions threatened up to a million people.

The first 700 Americans boarded a flotilla of three ships at Subic for a 12-hour voyage to the central Philippine island of Cebu, which has an international airport.

From Cebu, they will fly home in chartered DC-10 airliners, the U.S. embassy in Manila said. Transport planes were standing by to ferry the other Americans home.

At least 60 people were reported killed, including one American in Subic. Most died when buildings collapsed, groaning under the weight of continuous ashfalls and rocked by a series of earthquakes sparked by the volcano.

Others were killed when villages were swamped by mudslides and floods triggered by a tropical storm.

The Philippine News Agency quoted unconfirmed reports as saying that 100 people were killed in San Marcelino in the northwestern province of Zamboanga when the roof collapsed on a crowded public market Saturday.

Witnesses said dozens might have died in San Marcelino, but officials were unable to give an accurate death toll.

"I heard a rumbling sound and suddenly the roof fell on us. We started to run, but many were caught by the falling roof," said Evelyn Galang, a mother of three small children who fled to San Fernando.

The volcano cut a swathe of destruction across the northern Philippines. Villages were buried in mud, towns were paralysed by knee-high ashfalls and buildings collapsed in earth tremors which followed a relentless volley of eruptions.

Buildings swayed as a strong tremor shook the capital, Manila, Sunday but there was no apparent damage.

"That's a strong one," said defence secretary Fidel Ramos who was being interviewed at the time on Manila Radio.



A huge cloud of ash billows from Mount Pinatubo

remember to bring food for the kids. My problem now is how to feed them."

Many evacuees had nowhere to go, but crowded into churches and schools. Tens of thousands headed for Manila.

Thousands of people streamed out of Angeles, a town of 280,000 people about 20 kilometres from the volcano, some riding on top of buses, others in big open trucks.

"We don't know where we are going. We just want to get out of here. We just want to survive this disaster," said 44-year-old basket weaver Alibandro Delcarno, whose house near the evacuated Clark Air Base was washed away.

Meanwhile, analysts said that the eruption of Pinatubo could force a major revision of a proposed treaty between the United States and the Philippines on American military bases in the country.

The volcano erupted when negotiators from the two countries had almost completed talks on the future of Clark Subic Bay, the two largest U.S. bases in the country.

Pinatubo's eruption may force Washington to rethink the need for Clark as a lynchpin for U.S. strategy in the region, defence analysts said. Alternate landing sites for U.S. fighter jets and transport planes could be found at bases in Japan, Guam and the U.S. mainland.

Now, all calculations have been changed by the series of explosions unleashed by the volcano which bombarded Clark and Subic with a hail of rock and ash.

The eruption has made the Americans far more inclined to give up Clark Air Base and possibly even Subic," said Manila columnist Ariel Bocobo.

The lease on the bases expires in September. Clark and Subic represent almost a century of American military presence in Asia and play an important role in guarding trade routes across the Indian and Pacific oceans.

But, while the United States insisted in negotiations with the Philippines that it wanted both bases for another 10 years, it was already running down Clark as part of defence cutbacks following the end of the cold war.

Two squadrons of F4 fighter bombers were withdrawn and not replaced. The last three aircraft flew out this month.

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**Yeltsin trip to Washington marks new era for populist leader**

By Jonathan Lyons  
Reuter

MOSCOW — Newly-elected Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to the United States, beginning Tuesday, marks a radical jump from his familiar world of rough-and-tumble domestic politics into the realm of world affairs.

But the plain spoken former Moscow Communist Party leader, his reputation abroad enhanced by last week's elections victory, has a chance to calm Western fears that his radical programme is contributing to the country's disintegration.

The trip also offers him an additional boost among Russians, for whom a handshake with a U.S. president will be the final confirmation their man has arrived.

Western analysts in Moscow said Yeltsin, who is set to meet President George Bush June 20, will outline his package of radical economic and political reform and explain his relationship with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yeltsin, whose visit as a guest of U.S. congressional leaders will last until June 22, is expected to suggest creating direct ties between the United States and his

huge republic, which spans 11 time zones and has a population of 148 million.

The purpose of the visit is to inform the United States and the world community that Russia, where people made their choice in favour of democracy, is ready to achieve stability... through broadening radical and economic reforms," Yeltsin's foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, said at a news conference.

Since the Russian election, Gorbachev and Yeltsin have closed ranks, each going out of his way in public comments to smooth over past differences and to build on a recent truce between the Kremlin and nine of the 15 republics.

"These elections have produced a new balance. There is an understanding between us based on a working relationship," Yeltsin told French television at the weekend.

Gorbachev told Soviet television, he had congratulated Yeltsin on his election to head the union's most powerful republic and the two men had agreed to step up cooperation.

The elections were to a certain extent a signal that people are well disposed to... the fact that we have recently made real steps towards radicalisation of

## 'Blackmail' charge as Walesa renews poll threat to parliament

WARSAW (R) — Opponents of President Lech Walesa have raised a storm of protest over his threats to break up parliament and set his own rules for Poland's first free legislative elections since World War II.

The threats plunged Walesa still deeper into conflict with a parliament dominated by former communists as the battle over a new electoral law raged into a second week.

Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, leader of the democratic left group of ex-communists, accused Walesa Saturday of exerting "pressure bordering on blackmail" over the election.

Walesa's former Solidarity comrade Bronisław Geremek told national television: "This

sabre rattling and whip-cracking is nothing more than an empty threat."

Open warfare between Walesa and parliament erupted last week when he vetoed its draft law for October elections, calling it messy and over complex.

The Sejm (lower house) prepared a new law in just two days and rushed it through Saturday. Walesa's aides said it was still not good enough because it would lead to fragmented parliament.

They repeated his earlier threat to dissolve the assembly if it refused to cooperate and said for the first time Walesa was ready to draft the election rules on his own.

"If sham changes are introduced to the bill, the president

says he will present his own draft, on the basis of which he will conduct the elections," his spokesman, Andrzej Drzyzgowski said.

The main bone of contention is a clause in the new bill stating that voters must cast their ballot for individual candidates rather than party lists — the opposite of what Walesa wants.

He argues that the bill will favour political personalities over parties and create a splintered parliament unable to produce a stable government majority.

Some analysts say the electoral quarrel is merely a pretext and Walesa is bent on getting rid of parliament at any price.

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"Of course I like Dos Santos best," said Sandro, a clerk in a government office. "But I'm

curious about the guerrilla leader is growing.

The people of Luanda, many of whom are of mixed race, have traditionally feared the guerrilla leader, who has threatened to throw them out of positions of power and put black Angolans in their place.

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